

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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NORTH CAROLINA SUBMITS APPLICATION FOR \$13.9 MILLION IN HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FUNDS

RALEIGH – Governor Mike Easley today announced that North Carolina has submitted an application for \$13.9 million from the 2003 State Homeland Security Grant Program to improve terrorism preparedness.

If the U.S. Department of Homeland Security approves the application, federal funds will be available later this year to buy equipment and pay for training and exercises for state and local emergency responders.

“All 100 counties and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee would receive a share of this money,” Gov. Easley said. “Eighty percent of the federal funds designated for equipment, training and exercises would go directly to local law enforcement, fire and emergency medical service agencies who are the first line of defense against terrorists.”

The Department of Homeland Security allocates grant funds to the states based on population. The Division of Emergency Management, part of the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, would award the grants based on a formula that guarantees each county a base amount of at least \$10,000, plus an amount proportional to their April 2000 census population.

“We met with the leadership of law enforcement and emergency response associations and with key local government groups to develop the funding formula,” said CCPS Secretary Bryan Beatty, who is the state’s designated Homeland Security coordinator. “Everyone agreed that every county needs resources, but also recognized that the more populous counties are more at risk for terrorist activity.”

If approved, \$9.7 million will be spent on equipment for local first responders. Eighty percent of that money, or \$7.8 million, will go directly to county and municipal first responders, including the state’s regionally based hazardous materials teams, urban search and rescue teams, and medical assistance teams.

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